



FREEDOM WATCH



Aug. 5, 2002

Published in the interest of those serving in Operation Enduring Freedom

Bagram, Afghanistan

News briefs

(Compiled from CNN.com)

Weapons cache found in Athens

ATHENS, Greece — Greek authorities said they discovered a cache of weapons Sunday near the stadium where the first modern Olympics were held. The cache, which authorities said included several guns and a stick of dynamite, was reported near Panathinaiko Stadium, site of the 1896 Olympics and a planned site for the 2004 Summer Games. The group blamed for the killings of 23 diplomats, politicians and businessmen since 1975, has vowed to continue its campaign of violence.

U.N. inspector rejects Iraq offer

LONDON, England — The U.N.'s chief arms inspector says he will not go to Iraq for technical talks until Baghdad approves the return of weapons inspectors. In comments published on Sunday in the London-based pan-Arab Al-Hayat, Hans Blix said such a visit would only raise expectations and could spark a crisis if talks broke down between him and Iraqi officials.

Bragg officials react to spousal homicides

By Spc. Kyle J. Cosner
Army News Service

FORT BRAGG, N.C. Fort Bragg and the U.S. Army Special Operations Command officials have responded to reporters' questions about the killing of four military wives by their active-duty husbands in a span of less than six weeks during a press conference July 26.

Three of the four ac-

cused soldiers had returned from deployments to Afghanistan within the last six months.

Despite suggestions from the media that the killings may have been related to those deployments, Col. Tad Davis, Fort Bragg's garrison commander, told a roomful of reporters that the incidents probably related more to the soldiers' preexisting marital prob-

lems than to their deployments in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"That's one of the factors that we'll look at during our investigation into each one of these cases, but also what was the relationship, what was going on in that family, what was going on in that household — and then look at all those issues together to see

what we can put together as a total picture of what was going on in that family," Davis said.

Davis discounted Afghanistan as a direct factor in the killings, pointing out that duty there was no more stressful than deployments to other theaters.

"We've got several thousand soldiers de-

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Bagram Air Base PSB takes job personnel-ly

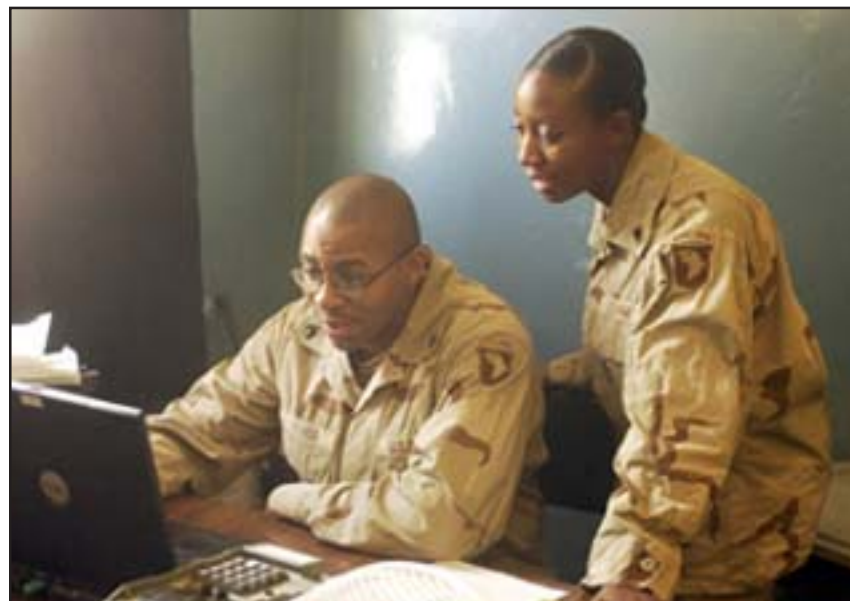
Story & photo by Spc. Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
28th Public Affairs Detachment

Not many people would jump at the chance to face the real world with factual situations and catastrophes.

Then again, not everyone is like the 101st Soldier Support Battalion, Detachment D. They didn't wait for orders putting them here; they arrived voluntarily. They didn't hide behind a dingy desk; they jumped over it.

Why would anybody willingly allow himself or herself to live in Afghanistan? Did they not see the horrors on television?

It didn't matter. They



Spc. Janis Wallace watches Staff Sgt. Taunn Flood review a soldier's record.

wanted a piece of the action. They wanted to see, firsthand, what kind of people would disturb our tranquility of life. They wanted them to pay.

"We came here very eager to help in any way

we could," said Chief Warrant Officer Carlos Negrón, the detachment's commander.

Their enthusiasm spread like an Oregon wildfire onto their families, who didn't seem to

mind sending husbands, wives and siblings into harm's way for the greater good.

The farewell from their home station, Fort

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HIND SIGHT

1305

Scottish hero Sir William Wallace, who led the Scottish resistance to an English invasion in 1298, is captured near Glasgow by the English.

1583

English explorer Sir Humphrey Gilbert founds the first English colony in North America, near Saint John's, Newfoundland. The colonists soon return to England, however.

1962

Movie star Marilyn Monroe is found dead of a barbiturate overdose at her home in Los Angeles, California.

1963

The United States, the former Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the United Kingdom sign a nuclear test ban treaty. Ninety-six other nations sign the pact, but France declines.

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ployed right now in 30 or more countries around the world," he said. "In many cases, those soldiers are in an as stressful, if not more stressful environment, than these soldiers might have been in Afghanistan."

Davis also cautioned against drawing too many connections between the four incidents.

"We've got to judge each and every one of these cases on its own merit and then see what we come up with in the end," he said.

Across post at the U.S. Army Special Operations Command, Maj. Gary Kolb, the command's public affairs officer, echoed Davis' comments. Three of the accused soldiers belonged to USASOC units.

"I think each case has to be taken differently," Kolb said. "To pinpoint one thing like the war in Afghanistan and say that's the cause is pretty hard to do. Each (case) needs to be looked at individually."

Davis said that although military families are subject to the same problems as civilian families, these incidents were a surprise, as there hadn't been a domestic-related homicide at Fort Bragg in two years.

"In many respects, what we've found is that some (military) families do have problems," Davis said. "But ... we are shocked and extremely surprised with the recent occurrences, and our hearts go out to each and every one of the families, to include the children in particular."

"In whatever way we can, we try to have programs available for (families experiencing problems) — everything from marriage counseling to marriage enrichment programs" Davis continued. "At the same time, we stress to each and every one of our leaders at every level to make sure that they're aware of the circumstances among the soldiers, especially those that are married."

However, such resources can't do much good if soldiers don't

take advantage of them, according to Henry Berry, Fort Bragg's family advocacy program manager.

"It's one thing to know that an individual is experiencing a problem — it affords you the opportunity to render assistance," Berry said. "If you don't know, you're hands are tied. Then, when a serious incident does take place, you go on a guilt trip. Should we have known? What could we have done? To be absolutely honest ... (these incidents) are mind-boggling ... I was completely caught off guard."

"We're going to look at these cases," Berry continued. "We have to identify what took place to prevent them. It could mean deleting programs, but it will probably mean adding on to our programs."

Whether the accused soldiers came forward for counseling is under investigation, Davis said.

He also said that despite his post's attempts to prevent domestic disputes within military families, sometimes prob-

lems could slip through the cracks — with tragic results.

"(These cases have) had a great deal of impact upon our soldiers, their families and our entire community," Davis said. "We are surprised and saddened by the unusual number of deaths, and are concerned about the children that are left behind. Domestic violence is never a pleasant issue, and I can assure you that we take our responsibilities as leaders very seriously."

That's why programs are in place to assist families with the stresses of military life, Davis said.

"We want to make sure that the families back here at Fort Bragg are taken care of," he said.

"Stress is something we face on a daily basis ... when you add on top of that military life, it increases the stress tremendously, and when you add on top of that the fact that loved ones might be moving into harm's way and danger, that also increases the

amount of stress on our families," Davis said. "We have worked very hard since (Operation Desert Storm) in particular to stabilize the programs we have to reach out for family members and be able to look after their needs, especially when their loved ones are half a world away serving in defense of this nation."

Two of the accused soldiers, Sgt. Cedric Griffin and Master Sgt. William Wright, are in police custody and charged with the first-degree murders of their wives on June 29 and July 9, respectively. The two other suspects, Sgt. 1st Class Rigoberto Nieves and Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Floyd, both allegedly killed their wives shortly before committing suicide June 11 and July 19, respectively.

All four cases occurred off-post and are still under investigation.

Editor's note: Spc. Kyle J. Cosner is assigned to the U.S. Army Special Operations Command Public Affairs Office.

If you have story ideas, call the 28th Public Affairs Detachment at 318 - 231- 4239

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Campbell, Ky., was bitter-sweet, but with only three weeks' preparation time, the detachment was ready.

"My wife didn't want me to go, but it was something I had to do," said Sgt. Joey Windham, personnel sergeant.

"I miss them, but this detachment is just like a regular family," said Staff Sgt. Taunn Flood, detachment noncommissioned officer in charge.

Regular? It has to be, because Flood turned and started bickering with a specialist from the S1

shop down the hall. They work together as the S1 unit gathers information and the detachment processes it.

The nine-person unit, located on the second floor of Motel 6, is as serious as a guy giving the universal sign for choking. They wake up before the sun even notices it's time to shine and begin working on ceiling-high paperwork. More soldiers walk into the room during the day than customers seeking a discount at a thrift shop.

The detachment has given out more than 850

awards, and has handed out up to \$300,000 in bonuses. They've also updated records and promoted soldiers in hostile environments.

Additionally, they also served as the Red Cross representative for three months, while Red Cross officials were on their way here.

"(The soldiers) keep us busy," Negrón said. "Mainly because we provide service to Bagram, Kabul and just about anywhere else."

All in all, the soldiers in the detachment consider their tour a success,

and are now preparing for their replacements.

"We've learned a lot to teach the next group coming," Negrón said. "We've also got some ideas to take back with us."

However, they can't decline the opportunity to go home.

"I've had a great time meeting a lot of people," Windham said. "But I can't wait to get back to see my wife."

"This deployment has given reason for all the training I've received," Flood said. "It's also given me a better appreciation for my family."

Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER REPORT:

| | Today | Tuesday |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <u>Bagram:</u> | Mostly sunny H: 100F L: 75F | Mostly sunny H: 100F L: 77F |
| <u>Khandahar:</u> | Dusty H: 108F L: 73F | Dusty H: 108F L: 73F |
| <u>Kabul:</u> | Dusty H: 100F L: 77F | Dusty H: 100F L: 68F |
| <u>Uzbekistan:</u> | Sunny H: 104F L: 67F | Sunny H: 104F L: 67F |

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

FREEDOM WATCH

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COALITION SPORTSZONE

The Day in Sports

(Compiled from ESPN.com)

Elliot wins second straight race; Stewart loses control

INDIANAPOLIS — He's Awesome Bill again.

Bill Elliott passed Rusty Wallace 12 laps from the end, then held him off on a restart with four laps to go Sunday on the way to a victory in the Brickyard 400.

It was the second straight win for the 46-year-old Elliott, whose career was rejuvenated last year by new car-owner Ray Evernham. Elliott, who earned the nickname Awesome Bill from Dawsonville (Ga.) during the 1980s, was dominating in Sunday's 160-lap event at the Indianapolis Motor Speedway.

He led 93 laps on the way to his 43rd career victory. Still, he found himself fifth after the final pit stop by the leaders on lap 130.

No problem for the red No. 9 Dodge on this day.

The green flag came out again on lap 134 and the 1988 Winston Cup champion was third by lap 137. He took second from pole-winner Tony Stewart on lap 139 and quickly chased down Wallace, another former series champion. Stewart, a former Indy-car star who raced in the 500 five times, fell to 12th. The Indiana native, who has had problems with his anger in the past, punched a photographer several times after the race and didn't talk to reporters.

2002 Major League Leaders

Batting Average

| | |
|-------------------|------|
| 1. L. Walker, Col | .364 |
| 2. M. Sweeney, KC | .355 |
| 3. I. Suzuki, Sea | .353 |
| 4. B. Bonds, SF | .350 |
| 5. J. Kent, SF | .329 |

Home runs

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| 1. A. Rodriguez, Tex. | 37 |
| 2. S. Sosa, CHC | 33 |
| 3. J. Thome, Cle | 32 |
| 4. L. Berkman, Hou | 31 |
| 5. B. Bonds, SF | 31 |

Runs Batted In

| | |
|------------------------|----|
| 1. A. Rodriguez, Tex | 94 |
| 2. N. Garciaparra, Bos | 91 |
| 3. M. Tejada, Oak | 90 |
| 3. J. Giambi, NYY | 88 |
| 3. M. Ordonez, CHW | 87 |

Wins

| | |
|-----------------------|------|
| 1. C. Schilling, Ariz | 18-4 |
| 2. B. Zito, Oak | 15-4 |
| 2. R. Johnson, Ariz | 15-4 |
| 2. D. Lowe, Bos | 15-5 |
| 5. T. Glavine, Atl | 14-6 |

Earned Run Average

| | |
|----------------------|------|
| 1. D. Lowe, Bos | 2.13 |
| 2. P. Martinez, Bos | 2.25 |
| 3. G. Maddux, Atl | 2.45 |
| 4. E. Dessens, Cin | 2.67 |
| 4. B. Colon, Cle/Mon | 2.67 |

Strikeouts

| | |
|-----------------------|-----|
| 1. C. Schilling, Ariz | 219 |
| 2. R. Johnson, Ariz | 215 |
| 3. P. Martinez, Bos | 188 |
| 4. A. Burnett, Fla | 163 |
| 5. R. Oswalt, Hou | 146 |

2002 Major League standings

| American League East | | | | GB |
|-------------------------|-------|------|------|----|
| N.Y. Yankees | 69-41 | .627 | - | |
| Boston | 65-45 | .591 | 4 | |
| Baltimore | 52-56 | .481 | 16 | |
| American League Central | | | | GB |
| Minnesota | 69-43 | .616 | - | |
| Chicago (AL) | 52-60 | .464 | 17 | |
| Cleveland | 48-62 | .436 | 20 | |
| American League West | | | | GB |
| Seattle | 69-43 | .616 | - | |
| Anaheim | 65-45 | .591 | 3 | |
| Oakland | 64-48 | .571 | 5 | |
| National League East | | | | GB |
| Atlanta | 73-38 | .658 | - | |
| N.Y. Mets | 55-55 | .500 | 17.5 | |
| Montreal | 55-56 | .595 | 18 | |
| National League Central | | | | GB |
| St. Louis | 59-49 | .546 | - | |
| Cincinnati | 58-52 | .527 | 2 | |
| Houston | 57-53 | .518 | 3 | |
| National League West | | | | GB |
| Arizona | 68-43 | .613 | - | |
| Los Angeles | 62-49 | .559 | 5.5 | |
| San Francisco | 61-50 | .550 | 6.5 | |

Sunday

Toronto 5-4 Baltimore
 Chicago Cubs 4-1 Colorado
 Tampa Bay 10-3 Chicago W. Sox
 Houston 5-4 Montreal
 Minnesota 5-4 Kansas City
 Los Angeles 4-3 Philadelphia
 Boston 11-3 Texas
 San Francisco 10-5 Pittsburgh
 Florida 7-2 Milwaukee
 Oakland 4-0 Detroit
 Cleveland 10-8 Seattle
 Atlanta 2-1 St. Louis
 Cincinnati 15-10 San Diego
 Arizona 12-7 N.Y. Mets
 N.Y. Yankees 7-5 Anaheim

Today

Kansas City at Minnesota
 Baltimore at Toronto
 Los Angeles at Philadelphia
 Arizona at N.Y. Mets
 Chicago W. Sox at Tampa Bay
 Anaheim at Detroit

NL Wild Card race

| |
|-----------------------|
| 1. Los Angeles .613 |
| 2. San Francisco .550 |
| 3. Cincinnati .527 |
| 4. Houston .518 |
| 5. N.Y. Mets .500 |

AL Wild Card race

| |
|----------------------|
| 1. Boston .591 |
| 2. Anaheim .591 |
| 3. Oakland .571 |
| 4. Baltimore .481 |
| 5. Chicago (AL) .464 |